THE

CRUEL STEP-MOTHER:

OR,

THE UNHAPPY SON.

GIVING

An account of 'Squire Brown of York, who had one
ly Son: and how his Lady fell sick, and on her Death
ed begged of him not to marry for the Sake of her Child.
How he soon married a rich Widow, who was very
uel to his Son: and how his Uncle dy'd and left him
Estate of Two Hundred Pounds a Year.
How his Step-Mother sent him away for the Sake of
s Money, by taking a Ring from his Father and put-
ng it in the Boy's Pocket, for which his Father sent
m to Sea, and the Ship was taken by the Spaniards,
d he made a Slave of.
How the Ghost of his Mother came to this cruel
retch, and told his Father of the Ring.
ow afterwards his Father fell into Despair and hanged
mself, and his Son came Home again, went to the Law
th his Mother, got Five Hundred Pounds from her,
hich broke her heart, and she dy'd with Grief.

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The Cruel Step-mother's *Garland.*

The cruel Step-mother; or, the unhappy Son, &c.—Tune of, *Aim not too high.*

YOU moſt indulgent parents lend an ear,
And you a diſmal tragedy ſhall hear,
A ſtory ſtrange, but certain true indeed,
Enough to make a ſtony heart to bleed.

In York, that famous city of renown,
There liv'd a gentleman, one 'Squire Brown,
Whoſe wealth and riches was exceeding great,
But yet he had no heir to his eſtate.

The 'squire and his lady in earneſt diſcourſe about no Children.

HE had a virtuous, kind, and loving wife,
With whom he liv'd a very happy life;
The want of children was their only grief,
But to their joy at laſt they found relief.

She did conceive, and with a ſon we hear,
Great was the joy when ſhe delivered were,
Much feaſting, which for many days did laſt,
Both rich and poor did of their bounty taſte.

It pleaſe' God, the child did live and thrive,
Until it came to be the age of five:
At five years old its ſorrows firſt begun,
And ſo continued many years to run

The greateſt pleaſure that we here can boaſt,
Soon fades away, and very ſoon at moſt:
When death approaches, who can ſhut the dart,
He has command, and ſtrikes us to the heart.

The 'ſquire's lady was took very ill,
The doctors uſed in vain their beſt of ſkill;
All wou'd not do, the fatal ſtroke death gave,
And now no mortal here her life can ſave.

Her huſband then ſhe cal'd for out of hand,
Her weeping friends around her bed do ſtand:
Her huſband came, ſhe ſaid to him, my dear,
The time is ſhort I have to tarry here.

Be careful of my darling child your ſon,
See that in virtuous paths he ſtrives to run,
That I in heaven may ſee him once again,
And there in endleſs joys with him remain.

For my child's ſake, O marry not my dear,
For if you do I ſhall not reſt I fear;
Let no ſtep-mother my dear child abuſe,
Whom I ſo tenderly have always us'd.

My jointure, which is fifty pounds a year,
I leave it to my child I love ſo dear;
Be you a tender father to my ſon,
Think on my words when I am dead and gone.

He ſaid, my dear, your words I'll keep in mind,
I to my child will be a father kind;
To wrong my child, I wrong myſelf you know,
I love my child too well to ſerve him ſo.

Then for her child ſhe ſtraight did call,
While the tears down her cheeks did fall,
And kiſſing of him with her lips like clay,
The child did to its dying mother ſay,

Mammy, what makes you kiſs me ſo and cry,
I hope you'll be better by and by;
I hope I ſhall, my dear, to him ſhe cry'd,
Then turn'd herſelf, and inſtantly ſhe dy'd.

His wife scarce two months in the grave was l
Ere he forgot the promises he made.
Which makes this proverb true we find,
That out of sight is quickly out of mind.

The Marriage of the 'squire and the rich Widow.

FOR to a rich and wealthy widow old,
He went a courting days and nights we're to
No rest or quiet would he let her have,
Till her consent to wed with him she gave.
She told him ere with him she would engage
She had a daughter fair ten years of age,
And therefore, for her only daughter's sake,
She was resolv'd a widow's will to make.
He gave his consent the will to make,
And in great joy and triumph they were wed;
But during of the time these things were done
He quite forgot his former wife and son.
His new wife she was very cross and proud,
And this poor child must never be allow'd
With them to dine, but at her chair must sta
Just like a foot boy to obey command.
Her daughter she must at the table sit,
And pick and cut the best of meat,
Besides a waiting maid too Miss must have,
While the poor boy is made a drudge and sla
Altho' he was neglected so we find,
Yet fortune unto him did prove so kind;
His own dear mother's brother died as we hea
And left this boy two hundred pounds a year.
His father was the interest for to have,
That he might keep this boy both fine and bra
But if he died before to age he came,
His father then was to enjoy the same.

His ſtep mother found things were order'd ſo,
She was reſolv'd to work his overthrow;
Said ſhe, when he is put aſide and gone,
What's left to him will quickly be my own.

The 'ſquire ſleeping in the garden with the ſleepy drink his wife gave him, and the boy lying behind him.

SHE with the devil then did ſtraight think,
And to her huſband gavera ſleepy drink,
And as in the garden he ſleeping lay,
Theſe treacherous words unto the boy did ſay;
Go watch your father as he ſleeping lies,
And if you ſee him wake and go to riſe,
Come in and tell me, make all haſte you can,
And ſo ſhe did this harmleſs boy trapan
The child with watching long did fall aſleep,
Then ſoftly to his father ſhe did creep;
From off his finger ſhe a ring did take,
On purpoſe of this boy a thief to make.
For as this harmleſs child there ſleeping lay,
He in his pocket did the ring convey;
Then with great joy ſhe into the houſe did come,
And ſaid, I hope this buſineſs I have done
The boy ſoon after wak'd and rubb'd his eyes,
But ſeeing his father going for to riſe,
To tell his mother he did ſtraightway run,
Meanwhile his father into doors did come.
And miſſing of his ring, to her did ſay,
My dear why did you take my ring I pray;
She ſaid, I took it not upon my life,
You may believe me as I am your wife.

But if you'd know what of the ring become,
I'd have you to examine well your ſon;
As in the garden you did ſweetly doſe,
I ſaw him fumbling then about your cloaths.
He went to ſearch his ſon, the ring he found,
Then hand and foot this harmleſs child he bound
And laſhed him till the blood did run,
While ſhe hard-hearted wretch look'd on.
She ſaid, ſend this wicked rogue to ſea,
Leaſt that he ſhould diſgrace our family,
I'll get a maſter for him ſoon, ſhe cry'd,
For he no longer ſhall with me abide.
He gave conſent and the a maſter got,
And he was ſent away, hard was his lot,
Where we will leave him for to ſail the main,
And turn unto this cruel wretch again.

The 'ſquire frighted with the apparition, falls into deſpair and hangs himſelf.

BUT God who ſees our actions here below,
He would not let this wretch unpuniſh'd go;
For this boy's mother to them did appear,
One night as they in bed together were.
The apparition told them of the ring,
And how he ſerv'd the boy in every thing,
The ſadly ſhook the bed wherein they lay,
And inſtantly it vaniſh'd quite away.
The 'ſquire he was very much ſurpris'd,
And finding that his wife had told him lies,
To make him ſend this harmleſs boy away,
He fell to grief and ſad deſpair they ſay.

To add unto his grief we underſtand,
A letter from him came to hand,
He at Jamaica was, the letter told,
And to a captain there was baſely ſold.
And as they ſailing were upon the main,
They by a Spaniſh privateer was ta'en,
The ſhip condemn'd and all made ſlaves,
This is my wretched caſe, dear ſir, he ſays.
His father hearing this he ſwooned away,
And calling of his wife both night and day,
Saying curſed wretch what have you done,
To make a father thus abuſe his ſon
From home, in grief, he rambled one day,
And to a lawyer went without delay
His will he made, and left his ſon his ſtore,
Then went and hang'd himſelf before his door.
The lawyer finding what he had done,
Did ſtraightway ſend a letter to his ſon,
For him to return home with all ſpeed,
And money ſent to ranſom him indeed.
The letter by good fortune he receiv'd,
His ranſom paid and quickly was reliev'd;
He got a ſhip, and home with ſpeed he came,
None but the Lawyer yet knew of the ſame.
He ſoon came home, and to the great ſurpriſe
Of his baſe mother, who with flattering lies,
Would fain excuſe herſelf but all in vain,
To law with her he went and did obtain
The cauſe of her, five hundred pounds beſide,
Becauſe by her he baſely was deny'd,
Which vex'd her ſore, and almoſt broke her heart
To think ſhe with her ill-got gain muſt part.

Her darling daughter being left alone,
Deſpiſed by all, but pitied by none;
She ſold off what ſhe had and went away,
And never has been heard of ſince that day.

To ſtep-mothers let this a warning be,
Never to uſe poor children cruelly
For heaven will help the widow in diſtreſs,
And be a father to the fatherleſs.

Let parents all beg of the Lord to ſee
Their children brought up to maturity,
Till for themſelves they are able to provide,
Lord ſend that they may be their careful guide.

FINIS.